

Sanctuary, one of the most biologically productive underwater areas on the planet, I also honor Ed Ueber, its first manager, a man to match the bounteous and awe-inspiring resource he has protected for so many years.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 163, THE
UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE
ACT

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that a previous commitment prevented me from being present to vote on H.R. 163, Mr. Rangel's Universal National Service Act.

This proposal would require that all young persons in the United States, including women, perform a period of military service or a period of civilian service for the national defense and homeland security. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Both the President and the Secretary of Defense have stated on more than one occasion that there is no need for a draft for the War on Terrorism or any likely contingency, such as Iraq. I believe the All-Volunteer Military Force has operated effectively for over thirty years. I fully agree with the Administration that there is no need for a military draft, and I do not support the Rangel bill.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL W. NYE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer my congratulations to Mr. Michael (Mike) W. Nye, Director of Investigations, Office of Inspector General of the House of Representatives, for his outstanding career and service to the House of Representatives for the past six years, and to the Federal Government for thirty-two years. Mike will be retiring from the House this month after previously serving as a judge advocate in the U.S. Air Force, from which he retired in the rank of Colonel. Prior to joining the House Office of Inspector General, he also served as Counsel to the Inspector General of the Marine Corps. During his career, he gained widespread legal experience and has provided invaluable counsel to the House Inspector General and his colleagues at the House on a wide range of legal issues.

Mike put his skills to good use at the House and his advice and counsel has been widely sought as we strive to continuously improve controls and security over the financial and administrative operations of the House. His energy and "can do" attitude were an example to all of us and his keen insights into legal matters helped assure that the Office of Inspector General's reports consistently met our needs by providing candid and reliable advice on all aspects of House operations.

Always the consummate professional, Mike will be sorely missed by all of his colleagues, but he can take pride and satisfaction in his

service to our great nation. Truly, Mike was one of those rare individuals who made a real difference by improving every organization in which he served. Once again Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mike on his career and outstanding service to the House, and to wish him, and his lovely wife Judy, much happiness as they pursue new challenges in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE CALIFORNIA
HIGHWAY PATROL AND THE CHP
OF LAKE COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in Lake County, California.

For the past 75 years, the CHP has had the motto "Safety, Security and Service." This reflects the mission and the intent of the CHP in Lake County.

The Lake County CHP consists of 32 uniformed members and five civilians. They are commanded by Lieutenant D.R. Hayward. In addition, a Vehicle Theft Investigator, Mobile Commercial Vehicle Inspector and a Motor Carrier Specialist are permanently deployed in the Lake County region. They are responsible for traffic and general law enforcement on roadways that cover 1825 square miles.

The Lake County CHP's commitment to the citizens of Lake County includes a very successful community outreach program. This program combines a dedicated community outreach officer along with Senior Volunteers and Explorers who act as a conduit for not only the general community but the Native American communities to interact with the Department and voice their concerns.

The Lake County CHP won the 2003 California Chief's Challenge as well as recognition for the 2003 Pedestrian Safety Corridor grant which was successful in reducing fatal collisions to zero during the duration of the grant.

The commander has implemented a collective program with Caltrans to continuously identify and mitigate any safety related highway designs. This program has had a quantifiable effect on reducing collisions and increasing traffic safety within the community.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is most appropriate that we acknowledge and honor the CHP in Lake County for their service to the community. The CHP of Lake County has established a standard of dependability, bravery and hard work that should be followed in all communities.

HONORING MS. ELSA BIRCHWOOD
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-
TIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE
CHIEF OF THE ARMY RESERVE'S
STAFF GROUP

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the departure of a great lady and a good

friend, Ms. Elsa Birchwood, the Director of the Chief of the Army Reserve's Staff Group. For the past ten years, Ms. Birchwood served as a superb leader, counselor, mentor, and confidant not only within her own office, but also earned the respect from other components of the Department of Defense. She served with great distinction in a full military career that began with her enlistment in the Active Army, duty as a drill sergeant, and ultimately as a commissioned officer in the Active Guard and Reserve Program. Throughout this period, she proved herself to be an outstanding leader and thoroughly professional staff officer of great experience and compassion.

Ms. Birchwood's loyalty and reputation led to her return to Federal service in January 1994 as a civilian military personnel management specialist in the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve. She applied her skills to her congressional liaison activities, the White House and Executive Branch agencies. She was an invaluable point of contact for legislative matters and always made herself available to Members of Congress and their staffs. She responded rapidly to inquiries regarding Army Reserve programs and policies and individual personnel management problems. Her cooperative spirit, determination and perseverance gained her and the Department of Defense many friends and much good will.

Ms. Birchwood's reputation for candor and integrity spread throughout the Reserve community and senior leadership in the Washington area. By the time she was appointed the Director of the Chief, Army Reserve's Staff Group, she had become something of a legend and a cultural hero as an advisor to the Chiefs of the Army Reserve, other general officers, and their staffs. She was an enlightened manager, anticipating emerging issues before they impeded the agency's involvement in the Global War on Terror.

Despite myriad demands on her time, Ms. Birchwood always responded with detailed advice and refreshing candor. She mentored her subordinates and assisted in their professional development. She took personal and professional responsibility to prepare those she supervised to perform up to their potential and she never shirked that responsibility. She was at once enthusiastic and practical, offering long-range advice and suggesting specific immediate courses of action for achieving professional goals and objectives.

At the end of the day, Elsa Birchwood stands as a splendid role model for all who aspire to meaningful public service. She served her country well as a private soldier and officer, and as a distinguished civil servant. She rose to the grade of GS-15 and served with great distinction as a supervisor, mentor, counselor, and friend. Elsa never forgot that she was first a soldier. Elsa Birchwood deserves our thanks, and I salute her lifetime of service to America. We are proud of you and your legacy is now the standard. Job well done, my friend.